

Rm 5207

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April 13, 1973

Honorable Clifford P. Case  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Case:

As you may recall, on March 20 I acknowledged receipt of your letter of February 15, 1973, which requested information on U.S. support to various agencies of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam (GVN). I regret the delay in providing this substantive response.

The "F-6 campaign" to which you refer is not new, but was in effect an extension of the Phoenix (Phung Hoang) program undertaken by the GVN. It was put into practice last April during the North Vietnamese invasion, as one of several emergency measures taken against suspected Viet Cong cadre. It involved an emergency detention procedure similar to programs which have been carried out in various other nations in response to a recognized national emergency. The "F-6 campaign" was effectively halted on January 1st of this year by order of the Prime Minister. As you are probably aware, the United States Government support of the Phung Hoang program terminated on December 1, 1972. No U.S. government agency is now supporting a program aimed at neutralizing the Viet Cong infrastructure.

It should be pointed out that the United States support for the Phung Hoang program was provided essentially in the form of funding and advisory assistance. This assistance was directed toward improving intelligence methods, apprehension techniques, legal procedures, and detention arrangements. Indeed, it was stated United States policy to eliminate any abuses in this program which came to the attention of U.S. advisory personnel. This policy was set forth in MACV Directive 525-36 which required all military personnel involved in the Phung Hoang program to adhere strictly to the rules of land warfare. It was never United States policy either to encourage or condone abuses, i.e., "dirty tricks", while providing assistance to the South Vietnamese officials responsible for implementing the program.

With regard to your questions on American assistance and support, Article 5 of the January 27 Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam calls for the withdrawal of U.S. advisors to all military and paramilitary organizations and the South Vietnamese police force within the same time as that set for American troop withdrawal, sixty days after signature of the Agreement. In fact, A.I.D.'s advisory effort to the National Police and Directorate of Corrections ceased on the day the Agreement went into effect, January 27th. A.I.D. is continuing to furnish commodity assistance on a one-for-one replacement basis, and is supporting police training outside Viet-Nam. This is the extent of our support to these agencies.

Prior to the Cease-fire Agreement, A.I.D.'s Office of Public Safety had provided assistance to the Government of Viet-Nam in three project activities:

- (1) Under the National Police Support Project, A.I.D. provided assistance to the National Police in maintaining law and order and local security in pacified areas, and in acting against criminal and subversive elements and denying resources to the enemy. A.I.D.'s technical advisors assisted their National Police counterparts in the development of a more effective, better managed, better trained police force and in the institutionalization of law enforcement as an important element in long-term national development. A.I.D.'s expected obligations for FY 1973 are \$6,179,000.
- (2) A.I.D. has provided support for the development of a Nation-wide Combined Telecommunications Directorate of which the National Police are but one of twenty-eight user agencies. Included in the Combined Telecommunication Network is the Village Hamlet Radio System which provides the only security and administrative communications between some thirteen thousand Vietnamese hamlets and their related villages, districts and provinces. A.I.D. has also provided assistance in the development of other countrywide communications networks giving Viet-Nam the capability to link together other elements of the Ministries of Health, Interior, Education, Land Reform, the National Police and other civilian government agencies. Expected A.I.D. obligations for FY 1973 are \$428,000.
- (3) A.I.D. assisted the GVN's Directorate of Corrections in its effort to develop a humane correction system providing acceptable standards of living, food, sanitation,

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health, welfare and vocational training for inmates of four national and 37 provincial prisons. Personnel from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, an A.I.D. Public Health Doctor and an A.I.D. Penology Specialist provided advisory assistance in this effort. The objectives of this project were achieved and our assistance completed in January 1973. Obligations for this project in FY 1973 were approximately \$155,000.

At the present time, we are in the process of preparing our program documents for submission to you and other members of the Congress regarding our overall FY 1974 requests. Thus, the funding information you requested for FY 1974 is still being refined.

With regard to the South Vietnamese intelligence service, several U.S. Government agencies had extensive contact with South Vietnamese intelligence organizations before the January 27th Agreement. Limited contact by some agencies, a natural manifestation of relationships between friendly nations, will continue.

I hope this information is of use to you. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

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United States Senate  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 15, 1973

The Honorable William P. Rogers  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

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ACTION  
is assigned to

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, I have long supported the idea of a viable, non-communist South Vietnam. Now that the President has negotiated peace accords for Vietnam, I intend to support the provision of appropriate and legitimate assistance to the South Vietnamese Government.

Thus, I find particularly disturbing reports in the press about a new American-supported program, called "F-6", allegedly aimed at "neutralizing" the Vietcong.

I had assumed that with the discontinuation of the Phoenix program in South Vietnam, the United States had forsworn the use of "dirty tricks," either directly by our representatives or by Vietnamese agents supported by us.

In any case, I have no independent means of confirming or denying this information, so I would be grateful, therefore, if you could answer the following questions:

What, if any, American support is now being provided or will be provided after the withdrawal of U. S. forces to the South Vietnamese police, internal security, or intelligence services? If any support is being provided, please specify the American Government agency(s) involved, the program(s) costs, the number of American personnel involved in Vietnam, and a detailed description of the program(s).

I am looking forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Clifford P. Case  
Clifford P. Case  
U. S. Senator

CPC:jmh